

The European Parliament and the United Nations have recognized and reaffirmed the Armenian Genocide as historical fact, as have the Russian and Greek parliaments, the Canadian House of Commons, the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies and the French National Assembly. It is time for America to join the chorus and acknowledge the Armenians who suffered at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. And let me stress that I am not speaking of the government of modern day Turkey, but rather its predecessor, which many of Turkey's present day leaders helped to remove from power.

As I have in the past, as a member of the Congressional Armenian Caucus, I will continue to work with my colleagues and with the Armenian-Americans in my district to promote investment and prosperity in Armenia. And, I sincerely hope that this year, the U.S. will have the opportunity and courage to speak in support of the millions of Armenians who suffered because of their heritage.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR NA-
TIONAL MINORITY HEALTH
MONTH

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, April is National Minority Health Month. Its goal is to foster awareness of minority health issues, and spur dialogue and solutions toward ensuring that minorities are not disproportionately vulnerable to illness, disease and premature death. In the U.S., Hispanics, African-Americans and Asian Pacific Islanders have significant healthcare needs. These groups suffer from high levels of poverty and disease, including diabetes, heart disease, tuberculosis, hepatitis, and cancer. Large numbers of minorities are also uninsured or under-insured. In a world where we have shortages of nurses, doctors, and other health practitioners, with respect to minority health in particular, there is no shortage of need.

To meet these challenges, the health concerns of particular minority groups must be addressed, and this must be achieved as we better our healthcare system. I am a strong supporter of the healthcare providers and research institutions in my district of El Paso, TX, such as Texas Tech University, the University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso Community College, the Border Health Institute (BHI), Pan American Health Organization, La Fe, Project Vida, Project Arriba, Fort Bliss, area hospitals and clinics, and individual doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals. I believe we must make every effort to create solid foundations for healthcare in our communities.

National Minority Health Month is a vitally important time for millions of Americans. In honor of National Minority Health Month, I urge my colleagues in Congress to support initiatives designed to effectively reduce minority health disparities. With respect to minority health, though there may be no shortage of need, we must assure there is also no shortage of resources to address the disparity, and eventually close the gap.